

InterNews™ =Quick Start=

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Version 1.1 September 1 1995

This document is for users who want to try InterNews before reading the entire User Manual.

1. Configuring InterNews for Your Site

If this dialog does NOT appear when you first start the program, skip to section 6, "Getting Started."

InterNews can be customized for a particular site. If you intend to distribute InterNews to other people at your site, you can first set a few default parameter values that will make it easier for your users. If you believe you are the only InterNews user at your site, you will have to set these parameters for yourself. Try the defaults first if you do not know the proper values; they may work just fine.

A fresh copy of InterNews obtained from Dartmouth College will not be configured for your site. The first time it is run, a configuration dialog will appear. You can set the default parameter values at this time. You can change them at a later time using the Configure for Your Site... command in the Edit menu. This menu item is enabled when there is no subscription file open. Changes in these parameters are applied to InterNews itself rather than to a subscription file. All copies that you make of the configured original will have those changes.

Some of the site parameters can be overridden by users through the Set Host Addresses... and Preferences... commands in the Edit menu. (Others can only be set with the Site Configuration dialog.) The parameters are described below.

About Authentication

InterNews prefers that users be authenticated before posting an article and requires that users be authenticated before sending a mail reply. This is a security feature to ensure that all mail sent from the program is identified with a username that is recognized by some host at the site. Posting, since it is not directed to individuals, is considered to be less serious in nature and therefore does not need such strict accountability.

To achieve some form of authentication, each copy of InterNews can be configured to check a name and password on some sort of local host system. It always uses NNTP for news and SMTP for mail, but it may use any of a number of services to authenticate a username with a password. The current list of possible authentication methods is described below. Others will be added to the list in the future as needed.

The best way to determine which authentication method makes sense for you or your site is to consider what program on what sort of machine you and/or your site population uses to send electronic mail. Here is a quick reference guide:

If your newsHost uses the INN software and it requires authentication, use the INN choice. It has nothing to do with mail directly.

If you use Eudora for mail or Kerberos for a network login, try the POP method.

If you use Pegasus for mail, also try POP; it might work. We do not have a direct Pegasus method yet.

If you use IMAP to log into mail, use IMAP.

If you use Unix mail, use the Unix choice.

If you use Vax Mail, use the VMS choice or the VMS-NC choice.

If you use CMS or another host that is not represented by this list, try the FTP choice.

If you use MicroSoft Mail, QuickMail, or LeeMail we do not have a choice for that yet.

- **Authentication Method:** This is a pop-up menu that presents a list of choices for how users will be authenticated. InterNews will not allow a user to post articles or send electronic mail without being authenticated by one of these methods. They are:

- **None:** it does not really authenticate; it simply asks for a user name to display on articles and an e-mail address for responses returned by mail. It also asks for a password that the user can make up. This password identifies articles so that other users cannot cancel them. If you use this method, you will not be able to send electronic mail with InterNews, but you will be able to post articles.

- **POP:** it requires a user name and password that will be accepted by a POP Mail server specified in the Authentication Host parameter described below. This option works for some sites using Kerberos authentication. If you are using Eudora for electronic mail, this is the correct choice. If you are using Pegasus for electronic mail and your site has the Mercury POP software installed, this is also the right choice.

- **IMAP:** it requires a user name and password that will be accepted by an IMAP server specified in the Authentication Host parameter described below.

- **DND:** it requires a user name and password that will be accepted by a DND (Dartmouth Name Directory) server specified in the Authentication Host parameter described below. This choice is useful only if your site is running the BlitzMail™ electronic mail system, also available from Dartmouth College.

- **INN:** it requires a user name and password that will be accepted by the INN news software. Use this if your site is running INN with the AuthInfo switch turned on. Check with your new administrator to find out if this is the case. The user name and password are likely to be the same that you use for electronic mail but may be different.

- **VMS:** this is the correct choice if you use Vax Mail for electronic mail services. This choice requires that a user enter their VMS login name and password before posting or mailing from InterNews. When this authentication method is chosen from the popup menu, an additional field appears in the dialog labeled "Shell Prompt". InterNews needs to know the exact prompt that the VMS mail host system uses on its command line. The default is "@ ". (Note the trailing space.) If the prompt varies, enter some part of it that is always present. If each user has a customized

prompt, retain the default and instruct users to enter their custom prompt in the box provided in the Set Host Addresses... dialog after they create or open an existing subscription file.

- VMS-NC: this is an optional choice if you use Vax Mail for electronic mail services. It works the same as the VMS choice except that the "Shell prompt" is not needed. This method assumes that your VMS system supports the /NOCOMMAND option at login time, an option that causes the shell prompt to default to \$.

- Unix: this is the correct choice if you use Unix Mail for electronic mail services. This choice requires that a user enter their Unix login name and password before posting or mailing from InterNews. When this authentication method is chosen from the popup menu, an additional field appears in the dialog labeled "Shell Prompt". InterNews needs to know the exact prompt that the Unix mail host system uses on its command line. The default is "% ". (Note the trailing space.) Some systems use their domain name followed by an angle bracket such as "mailhost.dartmouth.edu> ". If the prompt varies, enter some part of it that is always present. If each user has a customized prompt, retain the default and instruct users to enter their custom prompt in the box provided in the Set Host Addresses... dialog after they create or open an existing subscription file.

- FTP: this choice can be used in some cases to authenticate a username and password using any host that supports an FTP service. This may include Unix, VMS, and CMS machines as well as others. Macintosh FTP servers may not be used. System administrators may not like it if you use this option at your site because it will generate login events in the FTP log and will skew the statistics derived from that log.

If your site uses an authentication method that does not appear on this list, send a message to internews@dartmouth.edu with information about it. We will see if we can add it to the list.

- News Host: This is the name or IP address of the host computer at your site that manages the Usenet News (i.e., it is running NNTP). The default name is "newshost," which will work for many sites. If your NNTP service does not use the standard port number, enter the port number after the host name with a space between them.

- **Mail Host:** This is the name or IP address of the host computer at your site that manages electronic mail (i.e., it is running SMTP). The default name is "mailhost," which will work for many sites. This item will be disabled if the "None" authentication method is chosen. If your SMTP service does not use the standard port number, enter the port number after the host name with a space between them.
- **Authentication Host:** This is the name or IP address of the host computer at your site that manages authentication (i.e., it is running POP Mail, IMAP, etc.). The default name is "mailhost," which will work for many sites. This item will be disabled if the "None" authentication method is chosen.
- **Shell Prompt:** This box will appear if you are using the Unix or VMS authentication method. Enter the most common shell prompt for the authentication host. If that prompt varies, enter any part of it that may remain constant for most users. InterNews needs a string that it will see on the host to indicate a successful login.
- **Organization:** This is the name of your site: college, university, company, etc. It will appear in article headers.
- **Local Newsgroup Prefix:** If your site has local newsgroups, enter their hierarchy prefix here. For example, at Dartmouth College we have a number of local groups that start with the prefix "dartmouth." If you fill this in, InterNews will create an automatic subscription containing those groups. You might want to experiment with this before distributing the program.
- **Text File Creator:** InterNews lets you save articles as text files. This parameter lets you specify which program will be launched when one of those files is opened from the Finder. Enter the creator signature of the Macintosh word processor or text editor most widely used at your site.

3. Locking the Configuration

If you are a site administrator and you have configured a copy of InterNews to distribute to other users at your site, you may want to "lock" the configuration so that users cannot change any of the settings. There are several optional steps available for locking. All of these require modifying InterNews using a resource editing tool such as ResEdit™. Make these changes to a copy of InterNews before distributing it to others at your site.

1. You can decrease the number of items in the Authentication popup of the Configuration dialog by removing any of the 'xval' resources. For example, if you want to restrict users from choosing any authentication method except Unix, remove all 'xval' resources except the one named "Unix".
2. You can restrict the users from accessing the Site Configuration dialog completely by removing the Configure for Your Site... item from the Edit menu resource.
3. Normally users can customize the newshost, mailhost, authentication host and, if Unix is the authentication method, the shell prompt. The values set in the Configuration dialog are defaults stored in InterNews itself. Users can override the defaults using the Set Host Addresses... item of the Edit menu. If you want to restrict users from customizing those settings, remove that item from the Edit menu resource.
4. Special Configuration Options

There are a few special configuration options that have been requested by individual sites. These do not have a user interface. You must make changes to the program using a resource editor such as ResEdit™. Each of these is a simple switch that disables editing of some preference. To set the switch, simply add a resource to the program of type 'PREF' and the relevant name from the table below. The resource must be present but does not require any data; a resource length of 0 is fine. You can also edit the help text related to the first two items by modifying the 'STR ' resource with the same name listed in the table.

PREF PNAM: if present, disable editing of the posting name.

PREF EMAL: if present, disable editing of the email address.

PREF TNHT: if present, disable editing of the news host in address dialog

PREF TMHT: if present, disable editing of mail host address.

PREF TAHT: if present, disable editing of authentication host address.

PREF ORGZ: if present, disable editing of the organization pref

STR MSFX: if present, use as fixed mail suffix rather than appending the authentication host address. Enter the part of the address that follows "@".

PREF UNAM if present, hide the "Save Name" preference. You can lock this preference at true by giving the resource a value of 1.

PREF PSWD if present, hide the "Save Password" preference. You can lock this preference at true by giving the resource a value of 1.

5. Distributing the Program

Changes made in the Configure for Your Site... dialog are stored in InterNews itself. If you are going to configure the program and then distribute it to other people at your site, make sure that you do the configuration with a master copy and then distribute copies of that rather than the original.

If you are distributing InterNews for the first time, you can save your users some startup time by creating a basic subscription file and distributing that with the program. Also, if your site has more than 6000 newsgroups, you should increase the memory allocation of InterNews to at least 1000KB. It will have trouble getting started otherwise.

6. Getting Started

.c2.What You Need to Use InterNews

InterNews requires a Macintosh® computer with MacTCP™. The Macintosh must be on a network that has a "news host" machine available. A news host is typically a computer that runs UNIX or VMS and gets a Usenet news feed from the Internet. InterNews communicates with a service called NNTP (Network News Transport Protocol) on the newshost. InterNews presumes that the news host is known on the network by just that name: "newshost." If not, you can configure the program to talk to any computer running NNTP by entering its name or IP address in the Configure for Your Site dialog or the Set Host Addresses dialog invoked from the Edit menu.

.c2.Using InterNews for the First Time

1. Double-click on the InterNews icon.
2. If you are greeted with a dialog box entitled "Configure for Your Site," see section 1 for instructions. If you still do not know what to do, simply press the Set button to continue.

3. This dialog will appear asking you to choose a subscription file or to make a new one. Click on the New button.
4. After a minute or two of talking to the “newshost” computer, InterNews will create a new subscription file with the predefined subscriptions in it. These will appear as icons in a window named “InterNews Subscriptions-1.” This procedure is somewhat time consuming because InterNews is getting the list of newsgroups from the news host. This only has to be done once for a subscription file, though, so the program will be much quicker to start up after the first time.
5. Double-click on the Welcome subscription. A new window will appear with a short list of newsgroups in the top section, or “pane,” of the window.
6. Select the first newsgroup by clicking on it twice, then select a topic in the middle pane the same way. The articles in that topic will appear in the bottom pane. This will give you both a flavor of the program and some information about how to use the Usenet News.

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September 1993